

## Tennessee HIV Pregnancy Screening Act of 1997



### 68-5-702. Purpose

The purpose of this part is to require all providers of health care services who assume responsibility for the prenatal care of pregnant women during gestation to counsel pregnant women regarding HIV infections and, except in cases where women refuse testing, to test these women for human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and to provide counseling for those women who test positive.

[Acts 1997, ch. 296, § 2.]

### 68-5-703. Counseling and HIV education for pregnant women – Testing

(a) A provider of health care services who assumes responsibility for the prenatal care of a pregnant woman during gestation shall counsel each pregnant woman in such provider's care, as early as possible in the course of the pregnancy, with written material or videos that explain and provide information on:

- (1) The nature of the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV);
- (2) The methods by which HIV infection can be transmitted;
- (3) The medical treatment available to treat HIV infection if diagnosed early;
- (4) The reduced rate of transmission of HIV to a fetus if an HIV-infected pregnant woman receives treatment for the HIV infection;
- (5) The advantages of being tested for HIV infection as early as possible in the course of the pregnancy;
- (6) The reliability of tests for HIV infection; and
- (7) The confidentiality of test results and the woman's right to refuse HIV testing;

(b) The department of health shall make available educational and counseling materials required under subsection (a) to providers responsible for the counseling.

(c) After she has received the counseling and information specified in subsection (a), a pregnant woman under the care of a health care provider shall sign a form developed by the department indicating that she has been informed and indicating her consent or refusal to the HIV testing.

(d) A health care provider shall arrange for each pregnant woman under such provider's care to be tested for HIV as early as possible in the course of the pregnancy, unless the woman has refused testing in writing on the form described in subsection (c).

(e) A pregnant woman who presents herself for delivery and who has not been tested for HIV during the course of the pregnancy shall be given the counseling and information specified in subsection (a) as soon as may be medically appropriate and, unless she refuses in writing after receiving that counseling and information, shall be tested for HIV as soon as may be medically appropriate.

(f) All HIV testing performed under this part shall be done in a confidential manner and the results of the testing may be disclosed only as provided by law.

(g) After receiving a positive HIV test result from a testing laboratory, the health care provider shall arrange for a counselor to be present when the health care provider discloses the positive test result to the woman tested under this part. The counselor shall:

(1) Explain the meaning and reliability of the test results and the availability of additional or confirmatory testing, if appropriate;

(2) Counsel the woman to obtain appropriate medical treatment for herself and her baby and inform her of the increased risks to her baby if she fails to obtain appropriate treatment;

(3) Make available information concerning the available medical interventions to prevent onset of illness in the mother and to prevent transmission of HIV to her children; and

(4) Arrange for additional counseling in order to assist the woman in obtaining access to a comprehensive clinical care facility that can meet her needs.

[Acts 1997, ch. 296, § 3.]

#### **68-5-704. Reports to department**

(a) Each health care provider having a pregnant woman under such provider's care shall report to the department on a monthly basis the total number of women under such provider's care who were tested for HIV under § [68-5-703](#) and the total number of such women who tested positive. The reports shall be made on forms to be prescribed by the department. Each month the department shall compile the reports and publish the total number of women tested and the total number of women testing positive in the previous month for the entire state and for each county.

(b) The department shall make available to the appropriate health care providers in this state the written and video materials, forms, and counseling referred to in this part.

[Acts 1997, ch. 296, § 4.]

